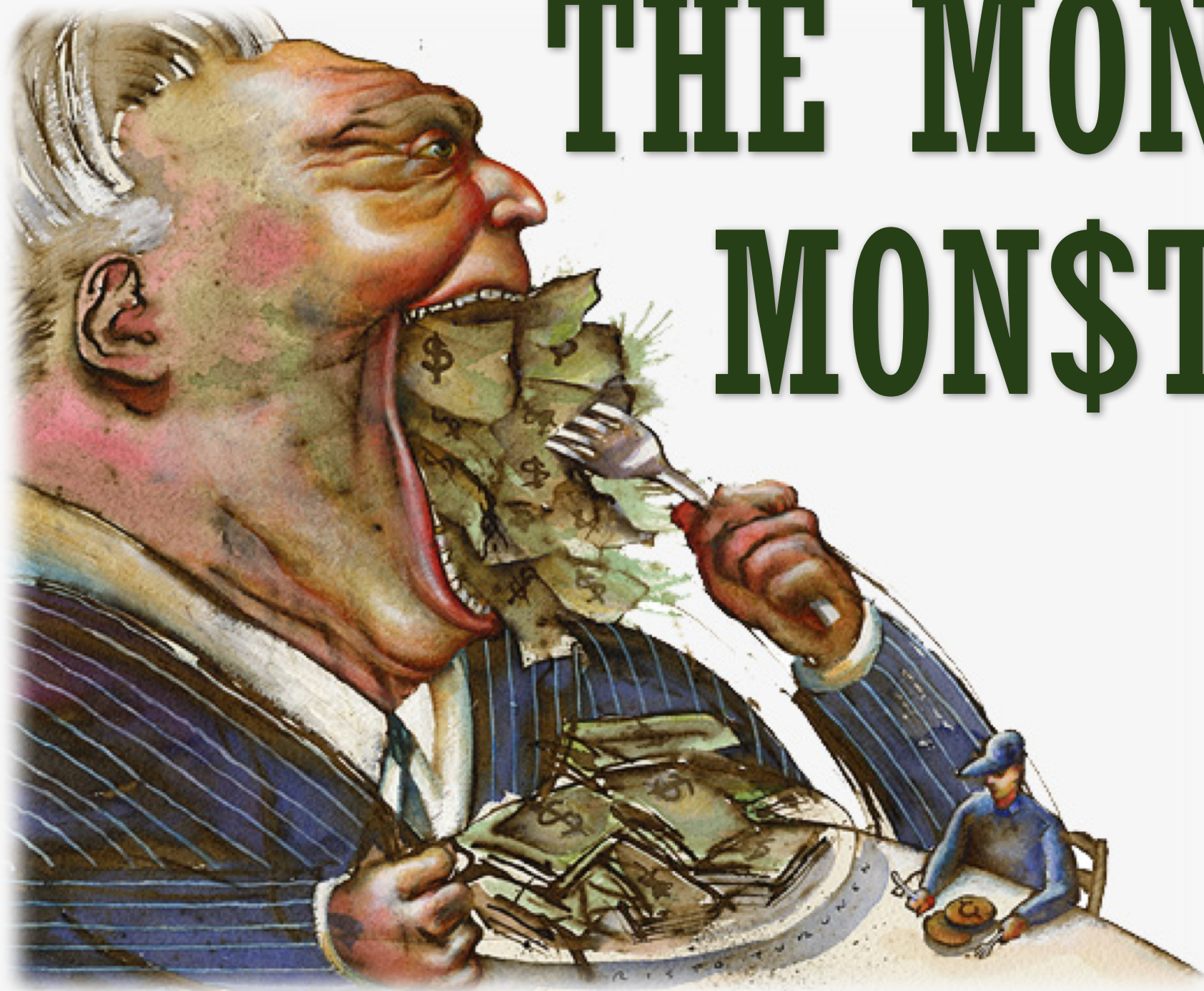
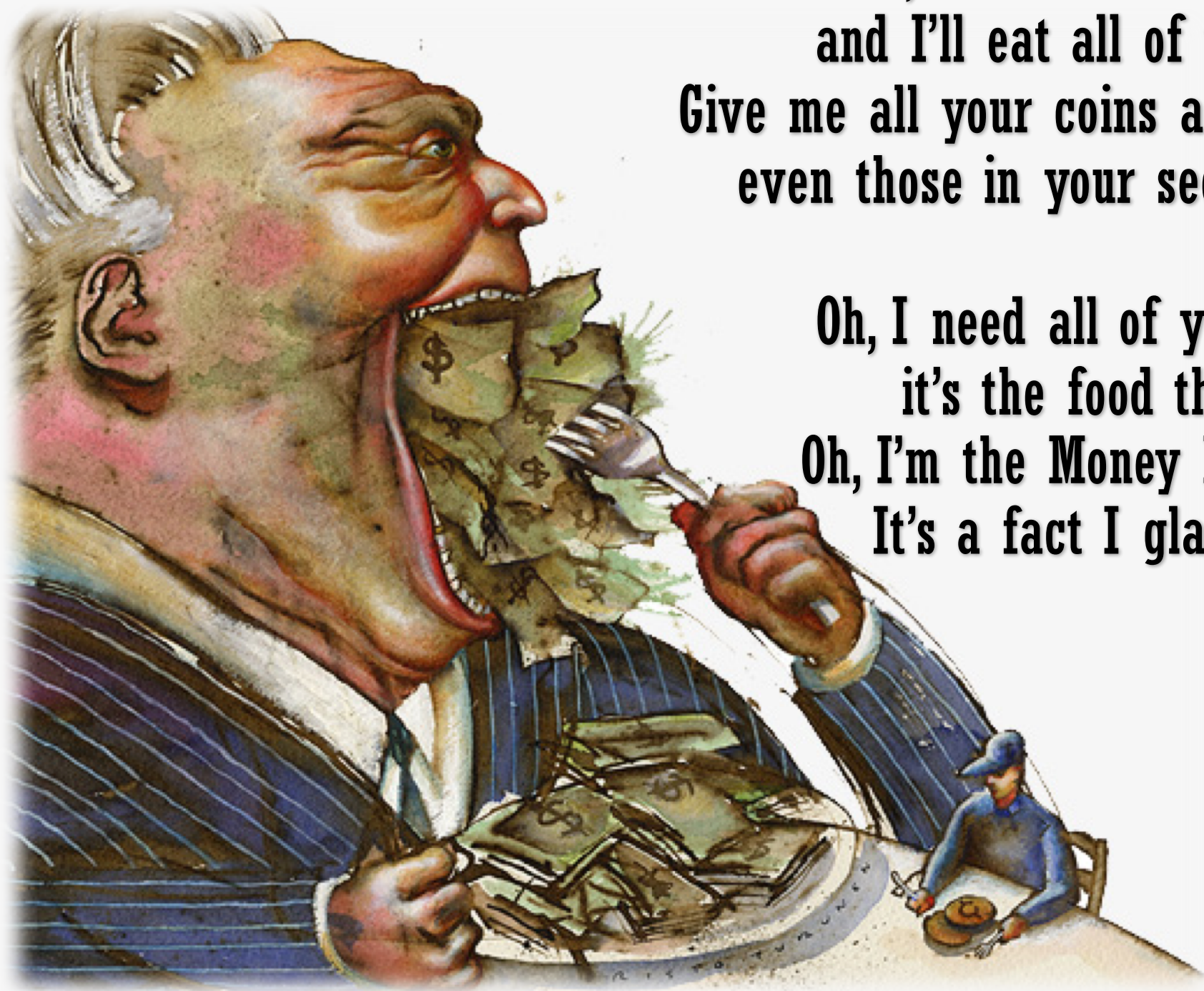


THE MONEY MON\$TER



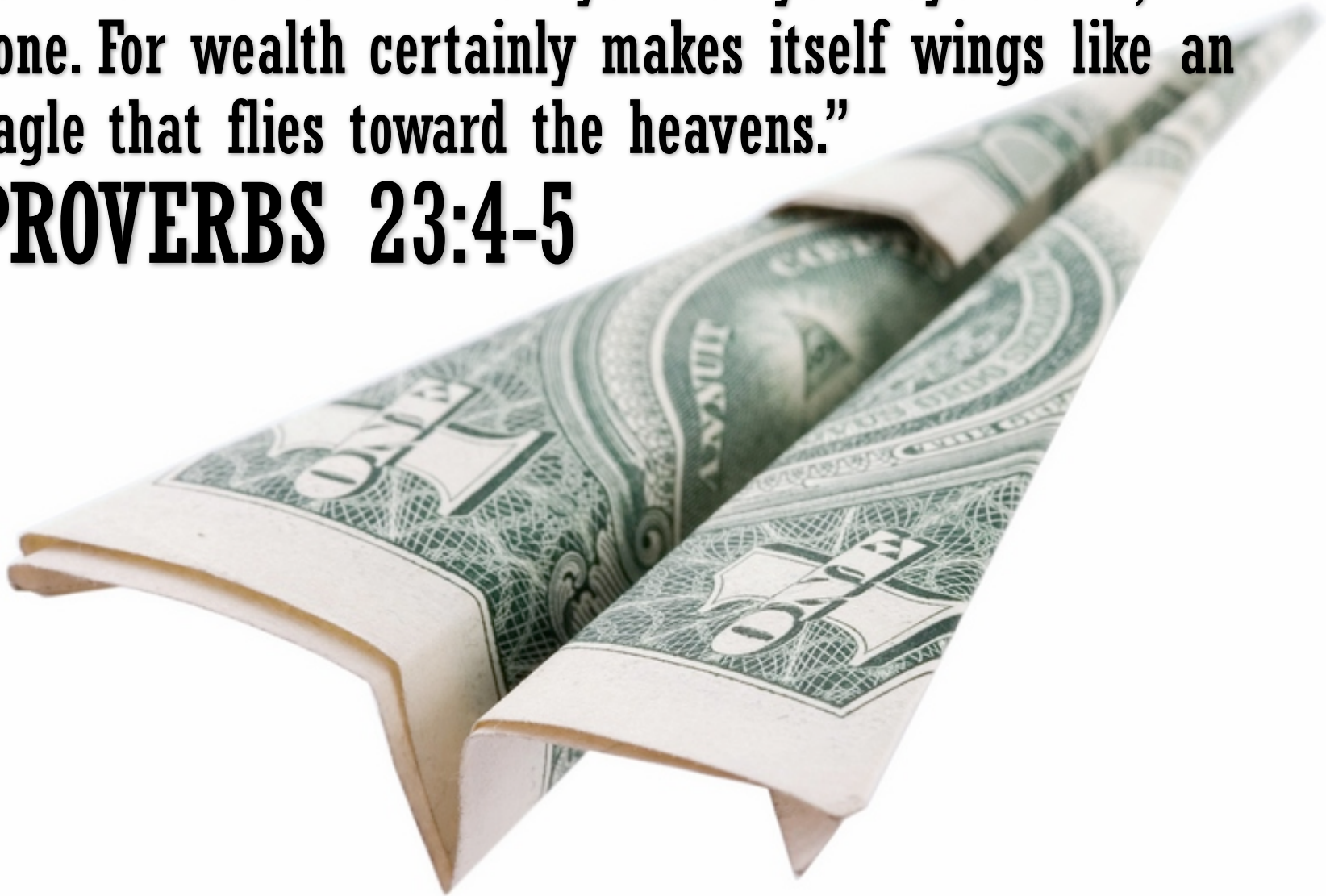
**Oh, I'm the Money Monster
and I'll eat all of your cash!
Give me all your coins and dollars,
even those in your secret stash.**

**Oh, I need all of your money,
it's the food that I want.
Oh, I'm the Money Monster —
It's a fact I gladly flaunt!**



“Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.”

PROVERBS 23:4-5



IS MONEY BAD?

- Money shouldn't be thought of as "bad" or "good", since it has no inherent moral value — like almost anything without context. The very same Bible that warns against the dangers of money also extols its usefulness.
- Consider Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 and Ephesians 4:28
- We cannot live on earth without it, at least in a practical sense, but we certainly cannot live *for* it, since our lives always take on the qualities of the things we long for most (Psalm 115:8). *"And they followed vanity and became vain..."* (2 Kings 17:15).

ENTICING

- **Why do we find money so enticing? Why do we fantasize about it and ruin our relationships for it? It is because greed always promises a level of satisfaction it cannot deliver. “To try to extinguish the drive for riches with money is like trying to quench fire by pouring butter over it,” according to a Hindu idiom.**
- **The Bible confirms this, frequently noting the danger of dissatisfaction and the desire for MORE. Consider Hebrews 13:5, Luke 12:15, and Ecclesiastes 2:9-10.**

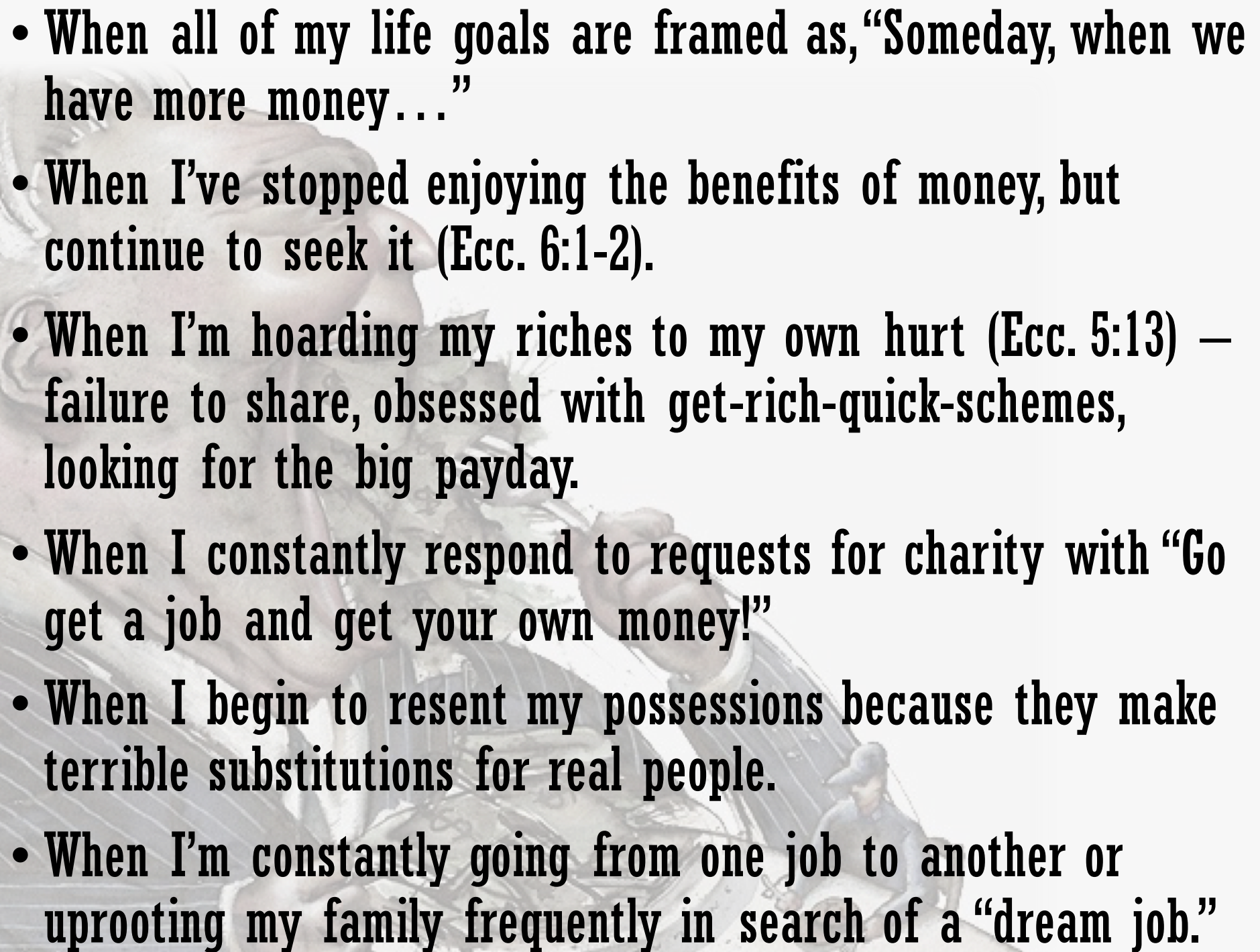
“Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘This people says, ‘The time has not come, even the time for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt.’” Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet saying, ‘Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate?’ Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘Consider your ways! You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes.’”

HAGGAI 1:2-6



**HOW AM I
FEEDING THE
MONEY
MONSTER?**



- 
- When all of my life goals are framed as, “Someday, when we have more money...”
 - When I’ve stopped enjoying the benefits of money, but continue to seek it (Ecc. 6:1-2).
 - When I’m hoarding my riches to my own hurt (Ecc. 5:13) — failure to share, obsessed with get-rich-quick-schemes, looking for the big payday.
 - When I constantly respond to requests for charity with “Go get a job and get your own money!”
 - When I begin to resent my possessions because they make terrible substitutions for real people.
 - When I’m constantly going from one job to another or uprooting my family frequently in search of a “dream job.”

A FEW SUGGESTIONS



- **I CAN'T TAKE ANY OF IT WITH ME**, but how I've left it behind sure makes a difference in the judgment (1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19, Matthew 25:34ff).
- **I'LL NEVER HAVE ENOUGH MONEY**, but I can be unimaginably wealthy (Matthew 6:19-34).
- **MONEY CAN BE A MEANS TO AN END**, but it should never be the end. What good is money if your family despises you? Or your soul is lost (Matthew 16:26)?
- **MONEY IS FLEETING**, get over it!